

ABSTRACT

An improved die or die insert for gripping tubulars such as in, but not limited to, oilfield tongs. The die surface, which contacts the tubular, may comprise a particle gripping coating wherein the gripping operation leaves no more than visually imperceptible marks on the tubular.

- 5 Further, the dies may vary in configuration and comprise a granular particle coated convex shaped die, a granular particle coated concave die, wherein said gripping surface does not match the diametrical size of the tubular being gripped, and a toothless or ridge free concave shaped die, which substantially matches the curvature of the tubular being gripped. Wherein the toothless or ridge free concave shaped die may be of a material softer than the tubular material or may be of
- 10 a hardness substantially the same of greater than the tubular being gripped.